



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Steve P. Thompson

Regional Director, California and Nevada Region



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Steve Thompson, a 31-year career veteran of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, became regional director of Region 8, formerly the California and Nevada Operations Office (CNO), in 2002. From headquarters in Sacramento, Calif., he oversees Service programs in California, Nevada and Klamath Basin that administer the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and manages 51 national wildlife refuges, and three national fish hatcheries.

The Service established the CNO in 1998 in recognition of the unique natural resource challenges facing California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin. Many of these challenges evolve from the inherently rich biodiversity of this area, coupled with many of the fastest growing communities in the nation.

The CNO was renamed Region 8 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in November 2007. In Region 8, decision-making is placed at the local level, where managers are in a better position to develop partnerships with external groups and organizations.

Prior to coming to Sacramento, Thompson was based in Atlanta as the Regional Chief for the National Wildlife Refuge System in

the Service's Southeast Region. Prior to serving in Atlanta, he spent three years as the Branch Chief for Resource Management for the National Wildlife Refuge System Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Thompson began his career with the Service as a wildlife biologist at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Burns, Oregon, moving on to the Puget Sound National Wildlife Refuge in Olympia, Washington, and Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge in Fallon, Nevada, before becoming refuge manager at Laguna Atacosa National Wildlife Refuge in Rio Hondo, Texas. In 1994 he was chosen as the first "Refuge Manager of the Year" by the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

In September 2007, Thompson earned the Distinguished Executive Award, the highest Presidential Rank Award given to career Senior Executive Service employees.

Thompson, 54, was born in Nevada and raised in both Nevada and California, where he graduated in 1976 from Humboldt State University with a bachelor of science degree in wildlife management. He is a competitive swimmer, avid birdwatcher and hunter.